

Vermont State Board of Education Monthly Report – April 2008

From the Chair

At its meeting on April 8, 2008, the State Board of Education addressed the following topics:

The Future of Education in Vermont – Next Steps – During the past six months, the Board has engaged with students, parents, teachers, principals, technical center directors, superintendents, legislators and representatives of statewide education associations regarding the future of education in Vermont. These discussions followed the October release of *The Future of Education in Vermont*, a **transformation document***, adopted in October 2007 by the State Board of Education. During discussion at the April meeting, the Board and Commissioner Cate reviewed a summary of the comments received and began a discussion on articulating the next steps in the transformation work.

**The transformation document has served as the genesis for conversation with statewide constituent groups on the topic. In addition, the Commissioner held regional conversations with students and principals. To view the transformation document, and comments from the meetings, go to*
http://education.vermont.gov/new/pdfdoc/board/future_of_education/future_of_education.pdf.

Annual Student Recognition Ceremony – The State Board hosted its third student recognition ceremony during which students from around the state were honored for their academic and leadership excellence. Board member Jessica Bullock emceed the program; Board Chair Tom James, assisted by members Susan Schill and Kathy Larsen, presented framed certificates to the more than 30 students present. The complete list of honorees can be seen at:
http://education.vermont.gov/new/pdfdoc/board/student_recognition_08.pdf.

Proposed PreKindergarten Rules Review – The State Board voted to initiate the rulemaking process for prekindergarten education rules at its November 2007 meeting. The Board discussed the revised draft of the proposed rules as a result

of the public comment process. To view the proposed rules, see
http://education.vermont.gov/new/pdfdoc/board/packet_archives/packet_08_0408/item_K.pdf. It is anticipated that the Board will vote on these rules at its May 20 meeting.

Orleans Essex North SU Name Change Approved – The State Board approved the request of the Orleans Essex North SU Board to change the name of the supervisory union to the North Country Supervisory Union, effective July 1, 2008.

From the Board

Chair Tom James provided an update on S. 371, proposed legislation that would elevate the Department of Education to an agency, change the position of commissioner to secretary and eliminate the state board. James reiterated the Board's formal position in opposition to the proposed change. See:
http://education.vermont.gov/new/pdfdoc/board/approved_minutes/approved_08_0310_special.pdf

From the Department

Revised Educator Licensing Regulations Effective April 1, 2008 – Educator Licensing Regulations have been revised to resolve outstanding problems created by or overlooked during the 2003 revisions and to clarify confusion or inconsistencies in language in certain sections of the regulations. The complete regulations can be seen at:
http://education.vermont.gov/new/pdfdoc/pgm_prostandards/vsbpe/rules/5100.pdf. Questions can be addressed to Marta Cambra, Director of Educator Quality (marta.cambra@state.vt.us or (802) 828-6543).

Updated Highly Qualified Teacher Accountability Requirements – As a result of federal monitoring, there is a new accountability requirement regarding Highly Qualified Teachers (HQT). All teachers hired to teach in Title I funded programs must have met the HQT requirements for their anticipated assignment(s) at the time of hire and all teachers paid with Title II, Part A class size reduction funds must be highly qualified for their assignments. Plans

to become HQT for one's assignment are not sufficient in these two circumstances. In other words:

1. All educators teaching core academic subjects in targeted assistance Title I schools must be HQT for their assignments if the educators are paid with Title I funds. Plans to become HQT are not sufficient.
2. All educators teaching core academic subjects in school wide Title I programs must be HQT for their assignments. Plans to become HQT are not sufficient.
3. All educators paid with Title II, Part A CSR funds must be HQT for their assignments. Plans to become HQT are not sufficient.

Contact Anne Bordonaro, Coordinator of Professional Standards, at (802) 828-0411, or at anne.bordonaro@state.vt.us. A chart of NCLB accountability requirements can be found at http://education.vermont.gov/new/pdfdoc/licensing/hqt/accountability_chart_0208.pdf.

2008 NECAP Science Testing Information –

The NECAP Science Assessment testing window for grades 4, 8 and 11 is scheduled for May 12-30, 2008. For detailed information, see http://education.vermont.gov/new/pdfdoc/pgm_assessment/necap/necap_science_testing_info_08.pdf.

Summary of School Choice Options in

Vermont – In addition to Act 150, other laws provide school choice options in Vermont, the most common of which are those allowing that tuition be paid by towns of residence if they do not operate schools at certain grade levels and if they are not part of a union district. For detailed information and access to a list of towns that currently pay tuition, see http://education.vermont.gov/new/pdfdoc/laws/act150/school_choice_options_08.pdf.

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Annual Martha O'Connor Award

Nominations – The State Board of Education is seeking nominations for its annual Martha H. O'Connor Award, established by the Vermont State Board of Education in recognition of Martha H. O'Connor's extraordinary contributions and dedication to Vermont's school children throughout her leadership in public education. The award will be presented in June 2008 to a private citizen who most closely

follows the ideals embodied in Martha's tenure with the State Board of Education. The nominee should be someone from a community who is not currently paid by a school district but who is dedicated to Vermont's school children. A school board member is eligible for nomination. The committee will be looking for individuals who have gone "above and beyond" their contribution and who have shown a true, unselfish commitment to students in their region and beyond. Detailed information can be found in the nomination information at http://education.vermont.gov/new/pdfdoc/board/oconnor_award_nomination_08.pdf. Nominations are due May 20, 2008.

Student Membership on the State Board of

Education – The Governor's office is accepting applications for the appointment of a student member to the State Board of Education. Secondary students graduating in 2010 or later are eligible for appointment to a two-year term on the Board. The term for the student who is chosen will begin on July 1, 2008. During the student member's first year, he or she will be a non-voting member. During the second year, he or she will have voting rights along with the eight other adult members. If you know of interested students, please have him or her complete and send in the *Student Application for Gubernatorial Appointment* application – see http://education.vermont.gov/new/pdfdoc/board/student_sbe_app_08.doc – and send in with the other information required. The deadline for applications to be returned to Marty Searight, Governor's Office, 109 State Street, Montpelier 05609 is Friday, May 16, 2008. If you have further questions, please feel free to contact Marty at (802) 828-3333.

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For more information on the Vermont State Board of Education, visit: <http://education.vermont.gov/new/html/mainboard.html>.

To view approved minutes of SBE meetings:

<http://education.vermont.gov/new/html/board/schedule.html#approved>.

To view the State Board of Education's Monthly Reports:

http://education.vermont.gov/new/html/board/schedule.html#monthly_reports

